(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) सरकार की इस संबंध में क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय में शिक्षा विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुही राम सैकिया): (क) और (ख) जी, हां। राजस्थान में जयपुर में और पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र में केन्द्रीय एस० आंचलिक शिक्षा तथा प्रशिक्षण संस्थान खोलने के लिए एक संसद सदस्य से अभ्यावेदन प्राप्त हुआ है।

(ग) सरकार ने ऐसे स्थानों के संबंध में पहले ही निर्णय ले लिया है जहां प्रशिक्षण संस्थान स्थापित किए जाने हैं।

Relaxation of norms for import of potassic fertilizers

865. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite caveat by agricultural body, norms for import of potassic fertilizers from CIS has been relaxed, as reported in the "Indian Express", dated 5.11.96;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government to the observations made therein and facts in this regard;

(c) the justification for relaxing the norms against the technical opinion; and

(d) the total quantity of chemical fertilizer imported since relaxation of statutory specifications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (c) Prior to the decontrol of phosphatic and potassic fertilizers in August '92, relaxation in particle size specifications was being accorded for import of Muriate of Potash (MOP) from the Former Soviet Union (FSU), which is one of the largest producers of MOP. Since the decanalisation of MOP imports in June '93, the question of relaxation in particle size specifications has been under the active consideration of the Government. As no definite technical opinion could be formulated on the effect of particle size on the agronomic efficacy of MOP, it has been decided to relax these specifications for a period of one year with effect from 31.10.1996 to avoid disruption in the imports of MOP.

(d) No imports of MOP from the FSU have been reported after 31.10.1996.

Pension to retired employees of Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd.

866. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:
PROF. RAM KAPSE:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had received any request in 1995, for grant of pension to the retired employees of Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd., Pimpri, Pune;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken a decision in the matter;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor, and the time by which Government are expected to take a decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. This Ministry had received representations in regard to introduction of a pension scheme for the retired employees of Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. (HAL) with effect from 1.1.1986. There had been no pension scheme uniformly applicable to all public sector undertakings. The Government has now notified a pension scheme through Notification No. GSR-740(E) dated 16.11.1995. It is uniformely applicable to all organisations covered by the Employees Provident Fund and the Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952. In terms of the scheme, the employees have been given option of becoming members from 1.4.1993. It is not possible for Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. to introduce a pension scheme with effect from 1.1.1986.

Decline in wheat cultivation

867. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the area under wheat cultivation has declined and the area under the non-food crops has increased; if so, the decline in land

use for wheat crop during the last three years and so far, during the current year;

(b) the impact of such a decline on wheat production; and

(c) whether Government are taking/have taken measures to ensure that wheat production does not fall, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) The area under non-food crops has been increasing over the years. As regards area under wheat cultivation, it has also increased during the last three years from 24.59 million hectares in 1992-93 to 25.70 million hectares in 1994-95. However, the area under wheat has somewhat declined to 25.12 million hectares in 1995-96.

(b) It is tentatively estimated that there has been a decline of about 1.5 million tonnes in wheat production on account of less area reported under wheat in 1995-96 as compared to 1994-95.

(c) In order to increase the production and productivity of wheat, the Government is implementing an Integrated Cereal Development Programme in What Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Wheat) with cropping system approach. Besides, the Government has increased substantially the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of wheat to Rs. 415 per quintal for the 1996-97 crop, which represents an increase of Rs. 35/- per quintal (i.e. 9.2%) over the MSP of wheat fixed for 1995-96 crop.

Integrated Afforstation and Economic Development Projects in North-East Region

868. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) The number of centrally- sponsored integrated afforestation and economic development projects being implemented in the North-East region as on date, with State-wise details;

(b) the number of projects implemented by the State Governments and the NGOs, State-wise; and

(c) the area covered by forests in this region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) and (b) The number of projects being implemented in the North-East region under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development projects as on date is as follow:

(i)	Assam	—	1
(ii)	Arunachal Pradesh	—	2
(iii)	Manipur	—	2
(iv)	Meghalaya	—	1
(v)	Mizoram	—	1
(vi)	Nagaland	—	1
(vii)	Tripura	—	1

These are being implemented by state forest departments/district Rural Development Agencies.

(c) The area covered by forests in North-East region is 164359 sq. kms. as per the State of Forest Report 1995.

Doubling of Mangalore-Shoranur railway line

869. SHRI M.A. BABY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to take up doubling of the Mangalore-Shoranur Railway line in Kerala;

(b) if so, the extent of work done and the amount spent so far;

(c) the target for completion of this project; and

(d) the details of the difficulties faced by Railways in implementing the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir, the work has already been taken up.

(b) Earthwork and bridges are in progress between Mangalore and Calicut. Three critical block sections will be completed and opened